



## DOL News Brief

June 3, 2010

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### White House Auto Communities Director Visits Northern California

Hot on the heels of President Obama's visit to Northern California solar panel manufacturer Solyndra, Ed Montgomery, executive director of the White House Council for Automotive Communities and Workers, visited a Hayward, Calif.-based automotive parts supplier that is saving local jobs through an innovative partnership between federal, state and local government agencies. Montgomery also met with workers, officials, businesses and community leaders in Fremont, Calif., to hear how the coordinated efforts are working for families in the face of the economic downturn.



- [View the Slideshow](#)

### UFCW Honors Solis

More than 200 leaders from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union's Western States Council honored Secretary Solis last week with their prestigious "Person of the Year" award. Previous honorees include U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and former California Governor Jerry Brown. The award was somewhat of a homecoming for the Secretary, who had walked dozens of picket lines with many of the trade unionists in the audience when she served as an elected official in California.

## What's Hot

### Shuttle Workers Get \$15 Million to Launch Careers

Secretary Solis traveled to the Kennedy Space Center on Wednesday to announce that the Labor Department is providing \$15 million to assist 3,200 Florida workers affected by the impending retirement of NASA's Space Shuttle Program. The Brevard Workforce Development Board will operate the grant that will assist workers with career guidance, skills assessment and access to training. Solis said, "Today, these hard-working Americans need and deserve our support, and I am pleased that this grant will allow them to upgrade their skills further and gain access to work opportunities in high demand industries."



- [Read the News Release](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

## DOL in Action

### DOL Helps Toy Maker Design New Career



In his 37 years at the Fisher-Price toy company, digital sculptor David Mills got to travel the world working at a job that he loved and where he hoped to retire. But at 58, the recession caused him to lose it.

Facing unemployment for the first time in his life, the Eden, New York resident turned to the DOL-funded Self Employment Assistance Program (SEAP) to learn business and

marketing strategies for starting a home-based business.

With the phrase "From Art to Part" as his business motto, Mills opened BKJ Digital Design and Development, specializing in computer-aided design and engineering. His company is now making money and orders are coming in. SEAP "provided me the structure to get the business started on the right foot," Mills said.

### Grads: Great Opportunities Await!



"Education can fortify you against the uncertainties of a 21st century economy."

That was the message US Labor Secretary Hilda Solis delivered to

graduates of Long Beach City College last week. The school, one of the most culturally diverse in

## News You Can Use

### America's Heroes at Work Revamps Website

America's Heroes at Work, a joint project between the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and the Office of Disability Employment Policy, announced a revamped website that will help educate employers about returning service members with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The new site includes a web-based

California, has been providing quality education to traditional and non-traditional students since 1927. Solis told the graduates, many of whom will pursue four-year degrees, that "by 2016, four-out-of-ten new jobs will require at least some advanced level of education or training . . . so with your degree in hand, you're in a stronger position to outcompete workers around the globe."

- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)

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## OSHA's David Michaels Talks Safety in Entertainment Industry

Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Dr. David Michaels is expressing concern that the entertainment industry is placing its workers at risk, but "employers are not taking these risks as seriously as employers do in other industries." During a recent teleconference with reporters, Michaels cited an OSHA penalty for the death of a worker at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida. The facility's operators were fined less than \$4,000. Michaels added, "It's clear to me that the size of OSHA fines are too small and they don't have an adequate impact." On April 27, he called on Congress to raise the limits on the size of the fines OSHA can levy as part of the Protecting America's Workers Act (PAWA).

- [Read Michaels' Congressional Testimony](#)

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## OSHA Official Views Cleanup

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Jordan Barab, traveled to Louisiana this week



where he spoke with oil spill cleanup workers, received a briefing from Unified Command leadership, and saw firsthand the challenges of ensuring worker safety and health in the clean up effort. Barab was part of a delegation that included The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Director John Howard, U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary Nicole Lurie. "There are a host of potential problems facing the workers, including heat stress, fatigue and chemical exposure issues," said Barab. "OSHA is doing everything possible to ensure oil-spill cleanup workers are trained and provided appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment."

training module, which educates users on TBI and PTSD, and illustrates to employers just how helpful employment can be in the recovery of our wounded warriors. The training is available 24 hours a day and is free of charge.

Other new features include a "For Employers" tab to help companies find everything they need quickly and easily, and a page dedicated to veteran and employer success stories. Also, a new "Stay Connected" feature allows users to bookmark pages, share resources through email and social networking sites, join the LinkedIn group, and subscribe to the America's Heroes at Work Newsletter.

- [Visit America's Heroes at Work's Website](#)
- [Visit the Training Page](#)

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## What Do You Do? Tell DOL About Your Job for a Chance to Win \$1,000

The department's Career Video Challenge is in full swing. Film and submit a short video of the day-to-day work of one of [15 occupations](#) (*tip: the video doesn't have to be about your own job*) for a chance to win \$1,000. DOL is seeking videos about such in-demand careers as nursing, carpentry, solar thermal installation and weatherization. After the department has received and reviewed all videos, the public will vote for the very best in each of the 15 categories. Winners will each get \$1,000.

- [Learn More About the Video Challenge](#)

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## Around DOL

### Time is of the Essence

The clock is ticking on three important programs. Secretary Solis urged Congress last week to pass legislation that would provide \$1 billion in funding for the 2010 Summer Youth Employment Program, and allow both COBRA subsidies and Unemployment Insurance extensions to continue. Without Congressional action, millions stand to lose UI and COBRA benefits in the coming weeks, and thousands of young people may not be able to take part in summer youth employment opportunities. Last year, approximately 320,000 young people participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program — later using their wages to buy back-to-school clothes, pay for college tuition, and contribute to family budgets.



- [Read the Secretary's Statement](#)

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## DOL in Action

### \$2 Million in Back Wages for Maricopa County Sheriff's Staff

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Phoenix, Ariz. agreed to pay \$2,059,807 in overtime back wages to 1,690 detention officers and sergeants for uncompensated time. "Employers, including public employers, must be held accountable to the law and pay their employees for all time spent on the job," said Secretary Solis. "The message is clear. Hard working employees who keep our communities safe deserve every dime they earn." The case was investigated by the Wage and Hour Division's Phoenix District Office.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Initiatives to Boost Compliance Among Agriculture Employers

After finding violations by agricultural employers in several states last year, the departments' Wage and Hour Division has notified employers to expect

## Avoid the Worst, Put Safety First!

Job Corps launched its inaugural Universal Safety Day this week to kick off National Safety Month. To celebrate, the Job Corps community conducted safety training; recognized students and staff who have made significant safety contributions; and sponsored safety-related programs on their centers and in their community. Job Corps also conducted a poster, essay, and slogan contest to increase safety awareness. Students from all over the country submitted their works, and the winning selections will be displayed at the Department of Labor's Safety Day on June 9. Anthony Jacobs of the Paul Simon Job Corps Center won for his poster, "Be the Hero of Your Workplace...Wear Your Personal Protective Equipment." Justin Banks of the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center won for his essay, "What Is Safety?" Iroquois Job Corps Center's Keyana Parson won for her slogan, "Avoid the Worst, Put Safety First."

- [View the Winning Entries](#)

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## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

The U.S. Department of Labor along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will hold a second meeting of the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program and Employer Sponsored Coverage Coordination Working Group. The event, which is open to the public, will take place on June 14 at the Washington Grand Hyatt at 1000 H St. NW. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## Open Grant Opportunities

### EBSA — Getting It Right - Know Your Fiduciary Responsibilities Webcast Part I

- [June 9, 2010 — Webcast](#)

### EBSA — Getting It Right - Know Your Fiduciary Responsibilities Webcast Part II

- [June 10, 2010 — Webcast](#)

### EBSA — The Basics and More - EBSA Compliance Workshop

- [June 10, 2010 — Birmingham, AL](#)

### ILAB — World Day Against Child Labor

- [June 8, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

### MSHA — Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association 2010 National Meeting and Training Seminar

- [June 8-10, 2010 — Virginia Beach, VA](#)

### OFCCP — AAP Development & Preparing for a Desk Audit

increased enforcement this summer. According to Patrick Reilly, director of the Southern New Jersey District Office, "We will be conducting investigations on a broad scale this year, including weekend and off-hour farm inspections." At the same time, staff has been conducting outreach in several languages to inform farm laborers of their rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. "The U.S. Labor Department will be actively ensuring that those protections are being given to all workers," according to North Carolina District Director Richard Blaylock.

- [Read the North Carolina News Release](#)
- [Read the New Jersey News Release](#)

## Tyson Foods Settles FLSA Litigation

Tyson Foods Inc. agreed to an injunction requiring that poultry processing workers be paid for all hours worked, including time spent putting on and taking off protective items, sanitization and waiting between tasks. This comes on the heels of a judgment earlier this year after Pilgrim's Pride violated similar regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act. As a result of these settlements, the nation's two largest poultry processors are now subject to nationwide judicially-enforceable injunctions. "No employee should be made to work without compensation," said Secretary Solis. "I am pleased that, as result of this agreement, poultry processing employees at Tyson Foods plants will receive the full wages that they rightfully earn and deserve."

- [Read the News Release](#)

## Contractor Cited Following Partial Building Collapse in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited a New York City concrete installation contractor following the partial collapse of a six-story residential building under construction in Brooklyn. New York Plank Services LLC, faces a total of \$125,800 in proposed fines for failure to bolt and weld a structural steel I-beam, and for exposing employees to potential falls of 40 feet due to a lack of fall protection

- [Read the News Release](#)

## EEOICPA Adds Nuclear Workers to CA, NJ Special Cohort Designation

A new class of nuclear weapons workers from plants located in California and New Jersey have been added to the Special Exposure Cohort of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). The Act provides compensation and medical benefits to workers who became ill as a result of working in the nuclear weapons industry. Survivors of qualified workers may also be entitled to benefits. All former Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory employees who worked at the Berkeley, Calif., site between Aug. 13, 1942, and Dec. 31, 1961, as well as former Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees who worked at the Livermore, Calif., site between Jan. 1, 1950, and Dec. 31, 1973, have been added. In addition, former Westinghouse Electric Corp. employees who worked at the Bloomfield, N.J., site between Aug. 13, 1942, and Dec. 31, 1949, are included.

- [Read the Westinghouse Electric Corp. News Release](#)
- [Read the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory News Release](#)
- [Read the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory News Release](#)

## MSHA Initiative Aims to Prevent Leading Cause of Coal Mining Deaths

Underground roof falls are a leading cause of coal mining fatalities, accounting for nearly 70 mining deaths since 2000. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) this week launched its annual roof fall

- [June 10, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)

#### OFCCP — Agency Update - NJ ILG Meeting

- [June 4, 2010 — Newark, NJ](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [June 4, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Seminar

- [June 10, 2010 — Los Angeles, CA](#)
- [June 11, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

#### OFCCP — Employer Outreach and Educational Forum

- [June 9, 2010 — New Orleans, LA](#)

#### OFCCP — How To Comply With Executive Order 13496

- [June 10, 2010 — Webcast](#)

#### OFCCP — Open Forum

- [June 15, 2010 — Dallas, TX](#)

#### OFCCP — Supply and Service Compliance Seminar

- [June 8, 2010 — Portland, OR](#)

#### OFCCP — Updates for ILG

- [June 10, 2010 — Honolulu, HI](#)

#### OSHA — Stakeholder Meeting on Injury and Illness Prevention Program

- [June 10, 2010 — Fort Worth, TX](#)

#### OWCP — Town Hall Meetings to Assist Nuclear Weapons Workers

- [June 15, 2010 — Las Vegas, NV](#)

prevention awareness program aimed at reducing the high number of roof falls that occur each year. Statistics show that these types of accidents occur more frequently in the summer months because, as temperatures rise, humidity and moisture increase underground, making it easier for a mine roof or rib to fall. During the agency's Preventive Roof/Rib Outreach Program, also known as PROP, MSHA personnel will advise operators to examine roofs that have weathered due to humid air; communicate immediately with miners when they observe adverse roof conditions; install supplemental support when conditions warrant; scale loose roofs in the face area where miners work; and consistently follow the approved roof control plan for their mines.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Opportunities are Open: Numbers Day

At the Department of Labor, the first Friday of the month (that's tomorrow!) is Numbers Day — when DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases the current employment situation report (including the unemployment rate). Every month, BLS surveys about 140,000 businesses and government agencies, representing approximately 410,000 individual worksites, in order to provide detailed data on employment, hours and earnings of workers in nonfarm industries. Explore the BLS positions below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding opportunities at DOL.

1. Position in Picayune, MS  
[Economic Assistant — GS-0119-05/05](#)  
DE-10-DAL-BLS-0148  
Close: 06/18/2010
2. Position in Many Vacancies - Continental  
[Economist — GS-0110-07](#)  
WA-295873-AH  
Close: 11/08/2010
3. Positions in Washington DC Metro Area, DC  
[Economic Assistant — GS-0119-05/05](#)  
DE-10-PHIL-BLS-0044-OC  
Close: 09/04/2010

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## Follow USDOL on

- US Labor Department sponsors free webcasts to help retirement plan fiduciaries comply with the law [06/03/2010]  
<http://bit.ly/cQAZSI> about 7 hours ago
- Tyson Foods agrees to nationwide injunction requiring poultry workers be paid for time spent putting on and taking...  
<http://bit.ly/9clHyl> about 9 hours ago

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